

HOW TO LAY CLAY BRICK ABUTTING PAVING



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MATERIALS AND QUANTITIES

Clay Paving Bricks	47 Clay Pavers per 1m ²
River Sand	Multiply paving area by approximate depth of bedding sand. e.g. 30mm and round off to nearest 0.5m ³
Plaster Sand	3 litres sand per 1m ² paving
Weed and Grass Killer	



TOOLS

Spirit Level
Screed Rails
Rubber Mallet
Rake and Pick
Wooden Pegs
Flat Bladed Spade
Steel Tape Measure
Bolster for Cutting Bricks
Building Line / Ball of Fine String
Brick Hammer / Other Suitable Hammer
Heavy Garden Roller / Hired Vibrator / Plate Compactor
Straight Edge for levelling sand
 (straight board $\pm 25\text{mm} \times 100\text{mm} \times 2\text{m}$)
Carborundum Wheel for very neat cutting
 (attached to electric drill or angle grinder)

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The following criteria are essential to achieve satisfactory long-term performance of paving:

- Adequate drainage
- Adequate thickness and quality of sub-base material
- Adequate edge restraint
- Selection of Clay Paving Bricks suitable for intended application
- Uniform thickness of compacted bedding sand of 25 mm ± 5 mm

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Carefully mark area to be paved with pegs and lines. Allow for openings in the paving where flowers, shrubs or trees can be planted when the paving is completed.

Using a pick or spade, dig over the area to a depth of $\pm 70\text{mm}$ below the paving level. Rake and loosen the soil, removing stones. Then compact the soil using a heavy roller or a hired compactor.

Slope the compacted ground slightly away from buildings or to one side to allow for drainage.

When paving an enclosed area, such as a courtyard, slope the ground towards the entrance gate. Use a long straight board to ensure that the surface is level to within 10mm.

An important point is to make sure that the level of paving is below the DPC level of buildings adjoining the paving.

2. In order to prevent grass and weeds growing through paving, apply weed and grass killer to the compacted ground

3. Set screed rails along the edge of paving area. Screed rails must allow for the spreading of sand to a depth of $\pm 25\text{mm}$

4. On this prepared area, spread a 25mm thick layer of clean river or well-washed sea sand to act as a bedding layer.

Screed to the level set by screed rails. A straight edge or board placed across the screed can be used for levelling.

Care should be taken to avoid compaction of the screed sand. Do not walk over the screeded area either during or after screeding operation.

5. Lay the Clay Bricks on the sand bedding in the required pattern e.g. herringbone stack or stretcher bond. Edges must touch to form what are called 'close butt joints'. If joints begin to open, the bricks should be knocked together with a wooden mallet. Work forward from the completed brick surface so as not to bedding.

6. When the Clay Bricks are laid, the surface may be vibrated with a hired plate vibrator to bed the bricks down well into the sand bedding. The vibrator should be passed at least twice over the whole area, but should not be brought closer than 2metres to the working face where bricks are unrestrained.

7. Sweep plaster sand into the joints and vibrate again. The process of sweeping sand and vibrating should be repeated until the sand between the bricks has built up to the level of the top surface of the bricks. This will hold the joints and prevent movement. Finally sweep over with a broom.

8. All brick paving should be 'restrained' along the edges to prevent movement or subsidence. Existing walls of the house or in the garden could be the restraint where the paving abutts them. For the side of a path or drive fix a row of paving bricks on edge into position. These should be laid on a bed of mortar or concrete. The edge restraint should extend sufficiently deep to retain not only the layer of pavers, but also the sand bedding layer.

